

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 22 remain pending in the application, with claims 1, 12 and 19 to 22 being the independent claims. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicants thank the Examiner for the telephonic interview conducted on March 24, 2003, with Applicants' attorney. During that interview, possible amendments to the claims were discussed. Ultimately, the Examiner agreed that amending the claims to clarify that a calculated measure of statistical significance is obtained and used would distinguish the present invention from the applied art, although an updated search would be performed.

Based on the Examiner's assurance, the claims have been amended above as agreed during the telephonic interview. Accordingly, all claims in the application clearly are allowable over the applied art, and an indication to that effect is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner also stated that a "p value" can correspond to any value. In response, Applicants note that the term p value has a well-known meaning in statistical analysis, i.e., the probability that a variant would assume a value greater than or equal the observed value strictly by chance. See, e.g., the Webpage printout attached as Exhibit A to this Response.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and an indication to that effect is respectfully requested.

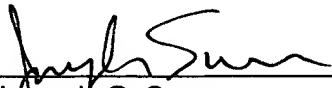
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Respectfully submitted,

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